

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-02 AID-05 AF-10 ARA-14
EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 /088 W
-----124214 221456Z /66
R 201845Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8686

UNCLAS GENEVA 06036

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, ITU, WARC
SUBJECT: ITU: SEMINARS SPONSORED BY ITU AND COM/CITEL

REF: FRIEDLAND-ANDERSON TELECON, APRIL 19

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED COPY OF LETTER SENT TO RUTH PHILLIPS, DIRECTOR, EB/TD, ON APRIL 14 BY RICHARD BUTLER, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, ITU, SUBJECT AS ABOVE.

2. LETTER SPECIFICALLY REFERS TO (A) ITU-SPONSORED SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN LATIN AMERICA IN FIRST QUARTER OF 1979 AND (B) COM/CITEL SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES JULY 10-14, 1978.

3. WITH REGARDS TO 2(A) ABOVE, LETTER NOTES THAT ITU HAS ALREADY ADDRESSED REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE TO DIRECTOR, USAID, AND NOTED THAT CANADIAN DEPT. OF COMMUNICATIONS HAS ALREADY ADVISED ITU THAT GOC INTENDS TO CONTRIBUTE \$15,000 TOWARDS THE EXPENSE OF THIS SEMINAR.

4. REGARDING COM/CITEL SEMINAR (2-B ABOVE), ITU NOTES THAT WHILE IT UNABLE TO CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY TO THIS MEETING, IT WILL PROVIDE LECTURERS AND THE ASSISTANCE OF ITU'S REGIONAL EXPERT FOR LATIN AMERICA AND ALSO POINTEDLY NOTES THAT CANADA WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE \$15,000
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TOWARDS THE EXPENSES OF THIS SEMINAR AS WELL. LETTER GOES ON TO STATE THAT "ITU BELIEVES THAT THIS SYMPOSIUM MAY BE INSTRUMENTAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE WARC 1979 AS IT COULD FURNISH PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WITH A PRELIMINARY OUTLINE OF THE PREPARATORY ISSUES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR THE CONFERENCE."

5. MISSION HAS ALSO LEARNED DETAILS OF TWO OTHER ITU-SPONSORED SEMINARS TO BE HELD IN 1979 IN PREPARATION FOR 1979 WARC:

A. AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST, FEBRUARY 1979, PROBABLY IN NAIROBI. OAS AND ARAB FUND FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT MAY HELP FINANCE.

B. ASIA AND PACIFIC, APRIL 1979, PROBABLY IN AUSTRALIA. AUSTRALIANS WILL HOST AND AT LEAST PARTIALLY FINANCE.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN THE ENORMOUS INTERESTS THAT U.S. HAS AT STAKE IN 1979 WARC, MISSION BELIEVES MOST STRONGLY IN THE DESIRABILITY AND IMPORTANCE OF THESE ITU AND COM/CITEL-SPONSORED SEMINARS TO CLARIFY THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AT STAKE IN THIS CONFERENCE, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND HELD IN 20 YEARS, TO LDC PARTICIPANTS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE NOT BEFORE ATTENDED A MAJOR WARC. MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE GREATER THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LDC REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE, THE GREATER THE LIKELIHOOD THAT DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN ON THE BASIS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CRITERIA RATHER THAN FOR POLITICAL REASONS. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE IN OUR BEST INTEREST FOR THE USG TO CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE IN THE FINANCING OF ANY OR ALL OF THESE SEMINARS. IN UNCLASSIFIED

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VIEW OF THE RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNTS OF MONEY INVOLVED, WE FEEL THAT ENORMOUS BENEFITS COULD BE REAPED IN THE FORM OF A MORE TECHNICAL AND LESS POLITICIZED ATMOSPHERE AT THE 1979 WARC. END COMMENT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, SEMINARS, MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA06036
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780172-0660
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780436/aaaabefd.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fb6d79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2906381
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITU: SEMINARS SPONSORED BY ITU AND COM/CITEL
TAGS: ETEL, AR, ITU, WARC, (PHILLIPS, RUTH), (BUTLER, RICHARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fb6d79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014